(a) whether Government have formulated a plan of action with the assistance of World Health Organisation to wage a war against Malaria, T.B., AIDS and tobacco use;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the current year and the Ninth Five Year Plan, with State-wise break-up of allocation of funds made/proposed, scheme-wise, and the strategy worked out to deal with major diseases in India; and

(c) the present status of the national health schemes and progress achieved there under, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, WHO provides financial assistance on a two calender year basis to support National Programmes. Assistance in the form of technical support is provided for undertaking surveys and operational research; procurement of critical equipments and drugs; training etc. During the current Biennium (1998-99), WHO is providing $3,00,000 towards Malaria, T.B. and AIDS under the country budget and $11,337,297 under the Extra-Country Budget for AIDS and T.B. WHO has also involved education against tobacco use among children and adults as one of its priority areas.

(c) The information is given in the enclose.

Annexusre [See Appendix 185, Anneuxre No. 58]

Medicinal plants in Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong

2226. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consi der to carry out intensive research into the availability of herbal medicinal plants at Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong;

(b) whether Government would also consider to establish research laboratories at those areas; and

(c) whether Government would also consider to establish medicinal institutes at those areas to use the rich herbal plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMLAI): (a) to (c) Government is very much aware of rich resources of medicinal plants in this region. Botencial Survey of India is already engaged in the survey and investorisation of wild medicinally important herbs/plants of this area. Further, Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, an autonomous organisation under the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy also intends to undertake survey of medicinal plants in these areas.

The State-Government of West Bengal has already established and medicinal plant research unit like Cincona Research Centre and Plantation in Mongow-Kalimpong. Asia's biggest plantation unit is established near Jaldhaka of Jalpaiguri District.

There are no proposals to establish further research laboratories or medicinal institutes under consideration at present.

Child Health facilities in Rural Areas

2227. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the measures taken to arrest population growth and improve child health facilities in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): Under the National Family Welfare Programme, the following schemes are being implemented with a view to arrest the population growth and improve child health facilities in the country:—

(i) Information, Education and Communication Programmes to create awareness about importance of small family;

(ii) Provision of contraceptive services through sub-centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and Hospitals;

(iii) Assistance to State/UTs to maintain certain family welfare infrastructure;

(iv) Assistance to NGOs for implementing family welfare schemes.

(v) Immunisation against six-vaccine preventable diseases.

(vi) Prevention and management of diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection etc.

All these programmes are implemented in both urban and rural areas.

Treatment of T.B. patients in private hospitals

2228. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of drugs and basic facilities for T.B. in Government hospitals, a large number of T.B. patients are seeking treatment from private hospitals/practitioners;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to encourage private sector to control T.B.;

(d) whether there are any issues pending before D.T.A.B. with respect to effective treatment with fixed dose combinations, in line with 1997 guidelines of WHO; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) The National T.B. Control Programme is implemented through District T.B. Centres and Chest Clinics which are equipped with necessary laboratories and extra facilities for diagnosis of TB cases. The Centres/Clinics provide free of cost diagnosis and treatment facility including supply of anti TB drugs for the TB patients. No authentic data is available in regard to the number of TB patients seeking treatment from private sector. However, T.B. patients also seek treatment from private hospitals/practitioners due to various reasons.

(c) All out efforts are being made to involve the private practitioners in the National TB Control Programme (NTCP). A number of continuing Medical Educations (CMEs) have been conducted throughout the country for educating the private practitioners in NTCP.

(d) and (e) No issues are pending before D.T.A.S. with respect to effective treatment with fixed dose cordinations in line with WHO guidelines of 1997.

Establishment of Baba Farid University of Health and Sciences at Faridkot

2229. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government has requested the Central Government for providing Rs. 50 crores for the establishment of the Baba Farid University of Health and Sciences at Faridkot;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?